

Message Text

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11

ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EB-07 TRSE-00 SP-02 AID-05 NSC-05

CIEP-01 SS-15 STR-01 OMB-01 CEA-01 XMB-02 CIAE-00

DODE-00 PM-03 H-01 INR-07 L-02 NSAE-00 PA-01 PRS-01

USIA-06 /072 W

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R 252121Z FEB 75

FM AMEMBASSY TEGUCIGALPA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9365

C O N F I D E N T I A L TEGUCIGALPA 0756

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: EFIN, IDB

SUBJECT: VENEZUELAN TRUST FUND AGREEMENT WITH INTERAMERICAN
DEVELOPMENT BANK

REF: STATE 040656

1. PRESENTATION MADE TO MINECON BENNATON IN ACCORD REFTEL.
GIST OF CONVERSATION BROUGHT OUT SEVERAL POINTS OF VIEW.
FIRST, HONDURAS IS AWARE ON SEVERAL ISSUES OF THE EXECUTIVE/
CONGRESSIONAL POLITICAL CONTENTION DUE TO PRESS REPORTS,
NUMEROUS EMBASSY OFFICIAL REPRESENTATIONS ON THE U.S. TRADE
ACT, AND THE IDB REPLENISHMENT PROBLEM. BENNATON CONSIDERS
SUCH CONFLICTS AS NORMAL IN THE U.S. SYSTEM. SECONDLY,
ALTHOUGH UNCERTAINTIES IN U.S. POLICY DERIVE FROM THE
SEPARATION OF POWERS, BENNATON FINDS THAT HISTORICALLY U.S.
ECONOMIC POLICY AND ASSISTANCE HAS BEEN AS A RULE CONSIDERATE
AND POSITIVELY EFFECTIVE IN RELATION TO HONDURAS INTERESTS.
FINALLY, THE NECESSARY ADAPTATION OF HONDURAS AND CENTRAL
AMERICA TO AN EMERGING VENEZUELA REQUIRES CAUTION. WHERE
POLICY DIFFERENCES DEVELOP BETWEEN THE U.S. AND VENEZUELA
AFFECTING HONDURAS, BENNATON BELIEVES HONDURAN SELF-INTEREST
WILL NEED CLEAR DEFINITION.

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2. COMMENT: CLEAR DEFINITION OF HONDURAN SELF-INTEREST MAY

FREQUENTLY LEAD TO A DECISION OF ASSUMING A "LOW PROFILE."
THIS APPEARS TO BE THE RESPONSE TO THE PROBLEM OF VENEZUELA'S
SUBSCRIPTIONS TO THE INTERAMERICAN DEVELOPMENT BANK.
SANCHEZ

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: AGREEMENTS, TRUST FUNDS, DEVELOPMENT BANKS, NEGOTIATIONS, FOREIGN POLICY POSITION
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 25 FEB 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: GolinoFR
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975TEGUCI00756
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750067-0067
From: TEGUCIGALPA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750213/aaaaaloh.tel
Line Count: 65
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION ARA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 75 STATE 040656
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: GolinoFR
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 09 SEP 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <09 SEP 2003 by KelleyW0>; APPROVED <10 SEP 2003 by GolinoFR>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
05 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: VENEZUELAN TRUST FUND AGREEMENT WITH INTERAMERICAN DEVELOPMENT BANK
TAGS: EFIN, VE, US, HO, IDB
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006